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REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 5, 7-15, and 17-39 are currently pending in the subject application and are presently under consideration. No claim amendments have been made at this time. Favorable reconsideration of the subject patent application is respectfully requested in view of the comments herein.

I. Rejection of Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 9, 17, 18, 38, and 39 Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 9, 17, 18, 38, and 39 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Griffin, et al. (4,696,706). Withdrawal of the rejection is requested for at least the following reasons.

The present invention relates to a stack of leaves having a size that conformally covers an entire exposed surface, wherein the stack of leaves comprises a base leaf and one or more leaves thereon (the base leaf). Essentially, *the stack* of leaves are affixed (at least temporarily) in a *conformal* manner to any given surface in order for a user to remove a leaf from the stack for discard (after use).

The Examiner asserts that "Griffin discloses that it may be necessary to use rather large, firm logic symbols on a blackboard for educational purpose or for a large exhibit purpose (col. 6, lines 45-47)." (See Paper No. 30, p. 5). Therefore, according to the Examiner, Griffin teaches or suggests the present invention at least with respect to "the stack of leaves being affixed at least temporarily in a conformal manner to any given surface..." Applicants respectfully disagree.

In the case of Griffin, the logic symbols (*e.g.*, leaves) which are affixed to the dispenser board (*e.g.*, base leaf) are removed from the dispenser board *when their use is desired*. Their desired utility appears to be as a logic design aid such as computer program flowchart development and electronic circuit design drawings. In particular, the logic symbols are easily removable from the dispenser board and can be affixed and removed without damage to the surface. Thus, it is each logic symbol and not the dispenser board that is applied to the surface for use as a logic design aid. This is in direct contrast with the present invention. According to the present invention, *the stack which includes the base leaf (e.g., dispenser board) and subsequent leaves* is applied conformally to any given

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surface.

Furthermore as recited in claim 17, the stack of leaves is precut to correspond to dimensions of a specific surface to be covered for conformal application thereon to the surface, the surface comprising any one of a shelf, a wall, a table, a floor, a drawer, a crib, a countertop and a toilet seat. Thus, contrary to the Examiner's statement in Paper No. 30, p. 7, Applicants do claim a specific type of surface that the leaves have to cover and furthermore, such surfaces have implicit sizes. Hence, the claims do imply what size the leaves or the surface are to be.

Griffin fails to teach or suggest applying the dispenser board along with the logic symbols conformally to any surface as recited in at least claim 17, which depends from claim 1. Rather, the dispenser board is applied to one surface whereby logic symbols can be removed therefrom for attachment to another surface for use as a logic design aid. Thus, the stack is not conformally applied to any surface as required by the present invention.

Furthermore, if a reference is cited that requires some modification in order to meet the claimed invention or requires some modification in order to be properly combined with another reference and such a modification destroys the purpose or function of the invention disclosed in the reference, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have found a reason to make the claimed modification. *In re Gordon*, 733 F.2d 900, 221 USPQ 1125 (Fed. Cir. 1984). In the present case, the intended use of the logic symbols is explicitly demonstrated in Griffin *et al.*'s Fig. 3. As clearly illustrated in the figure, the logic symbols are individually applied non-conformally to a surface. That is, they are of a size that is intended to not conformally cover the whole or entire surface, but rather to provide a computer programmer or a logic designer a simple method of quickly and rapidly developing logic flowcharts or designs. More importantly, the dispenser board as shown in Figs. 1, 5, 6, and 7 of Griffin *et al.* is proportionate to the individual stickers or at least to all the different logic symbols (Fig. 1). Thus, modifying the size of the logic symbols and/or the size of the dispenser board to make it conformally cover an entire exposed surface would render the invention of Griffin *et al.* inoperable for its intended use as logic design aid for computer program flowchart development and/or

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electronic circuit design because the dispenser board is applied or adhered to a chalkboard or wall and the individual symbols are meant to be applied to a surface for quick and rapid developing of flowcharts and designs. Therefore, modifying the size of dispenser board to conformally cover a chalkboard or wall would be prohibitive of the intended use of the dispenser board, particularly in connection with the intended use of the logic symbols affixed thereto. Similarly, applying a larger sized logic symbol to conformally cover a smaller surface such as a post-it note as suggested by the Examiner (Paper No. 30, p. 8) would render the invention inoperable for its intended use of employing the logic symbols in a logic design (Griffin, Fig. 3 and col. 4, ll. 57-60) which includes having a large number of logic symbols arranged on a surface (col. 7, ll. 18-21).

Granted, the size of the logic symbols can be varied according to the programmer's use, however conformity of the logic symbols to their applied surface is not feasible according to the teachings of Griffin *et al.* Thus, Griffin *et al.* does not teach or suggest such an element nor does Griffin *et al.* provide the requisite motivation to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Griffin *et al.* in order to perform the subject invention.

Moreover, Griffin *et al.* does not teach or suggest each and every element of the claimed invention at least with respect to claim 17; and one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated by the instant application to modify Griffin *et al.* in the claimed manner.

II. Rejection of Claims 8, 10, 11, and 12 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

According to the current Office Action, the 35 U.S.C. § 103 rejection of claims 8, 10, 11, and 12 over Griffin *et al.* (4,696,706) in view of Cleef *et al.* (2,248,317) is repeated for reasons previously of record in paper #18, pages 4-5, paragraph #13. Withdrawal of the rejection is requested for at least the following reasons.

Claims 8 and 10-12 depend from claim 1. The arguments set forth above with respect to claim 1 apply as well to claims 8 and 10-12.

Cleef *et al.* is relied upon for its teaching of the leaves having an active agent and peeling means. Therefore, it is implicitly acknowledged that Cleef *et al.* also fails to

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teach or suggest the structural feature of the stack of leaves as discussed above since it is not relied upon for such teaching or suggestion. Hence, the present invention would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made in view of Griffin *et al.* and Cleef *et al.*, either individually or combined.

In view of the foregoing, the rejection should be withdrawn.

III. Rejection of Claims 13-15 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

According to the current Office Action, the 35 U.S.C. § 103 rejection of claims 13-15 over Griffin *et al.* (4,696,706) in view of Cleef *et al.* (2,248,317) and further in view of Bowskill *et al.* (4,795,669) is repeated for reasons previously of record in paper #18, pages 5-6, paragraph #14. Withdrawal of the rejection is requested for at least the following reasons.

Claims 13-15 depend from claim 1 which has been previously amended as discussed above. The arguments set forth with respect to claim 1 and claims 8 and 10-12 apply herein as well. Thus, Griffin *et al.* and Cleef *et al.* fail to teach or suggest each and every element of the invention as claimed.

Bowskill *et al.* has been relied upon for its teaching of tabs comprising adhesive. Thus, it is implicitly acknowledged that Bowskill *et al.* also fails to teach and suggest that the stack of shields (in Bowskill *et al.*) are of a size to conformally cover an entire exposed surface, as required by the subject invention, since it is not relied upon for such teaching or suggestion. Hence, the present invention would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made in view of Griffin *et al.*, Cleef *et al.*, and Bowskill *et al.* either individually or combined.

In view of the foregoing, the rejection should be withdrawn.

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CONCLUSION

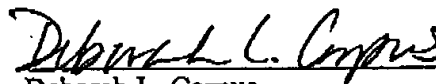
The present application is believed to be in condition for allowance in view of the above comments and amendments. A prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.

In the event any fees are due in connection with this document, the Commissioner is authorized to charge those fees to Deposit Account No. 50-1063.

Should the Examiner believe a telephone interview would be helpful to expedite favorable prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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